

University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge

Annual Report 1975/6

The Board of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology presents to the University the 88th Annual Report of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology for the academic year 1975/6.

Staff

Curator: P.W. Gathercole

Assistant  
Curators: P.L. Carter (Archaeology)  
M.D. Cra'ster (Archaeology)  
D.A. Swallow (Anthropology)

Faculty Assistant Staff with certain Museum responsibilities:

Technicians: P.W. Smith                      Photographer: G.Owen  
                  D. Stringer    J. Osbourn

Secretary (1/2 time): Mrs. K. Stringer (to January 1976)  
  Miss L. Bodger (from January 1976)

Honorary Keepers:

Dr. G.H.S. Bushnell (American collections)  
Dr. H.K. Cameron (Brass rubbings)  
Mrs. J. Cunning (Records)  
Mr. E.S. Higgs (Faunal collections), deceased 23 September 1976 Dr. G.I. Jones (Nigerian collections)  
Miss J. Liversidge (Romano-British collections)  
Dr. C.B.M. McBurney (Palaeolithic collections)  
Mrs. J. Roth (Fijian collections)

Attendants (part time): C. Bloy, W. Cox, E. Gent, F. Whitehead.

Reorganisation

The year was important for the Museum because the initial movement of collections to the Shorts' Store, plans for which were outlined in the last Annual Report, was completed slightly ahead of schedule. The construction work was finished in the Spring, and some material was moved in July. We now have an area for reference collections equipped in a manner consonant with decent museum storage, enabling proper care of the specimens and easy access for study. In addition there is a small clothing store for some of the textiles, the furnishing of which was converted with great skill by Mr. Smith. The Short's Store sets a minimum standard for the future housing of the rest of the reserve

collections, wherever they may be. It also provides an essential space for manoeuvre, without which any further improvements would have been impossible. We are grateful to the General Board and to colleagues in the Faculty for their support and approval in its establishment. At present, the Store houses some of the African ethnographic and some of the textile collections, the brass- rubbings' collection, and most of the Saxon and Medieval reserves. They are available for study at 24 hours notice to the Curators.

It is important to emphasise the ease with which these collections can now be produced for teaching or research. Parts can also be brought back to the museum on request. It is gratifying that, following the move, work on the Saxon and brass-rubbings' collections has been resumed. Several students have worked on the Saxon cemetery material from Girton and St. John's cricket ground. Mr. P. Heseltine and Miss Judith Christian have identified rubbings which illustrate brasses now wholly or partially missing. So far 400 have been found and photographed.

The Store is now an integral part of the Museum reserve system. As material is sorted and re-packed in our modular box units, it is being incorporated into the appropriate section. A similar procedure is followed for the Egyptian and Near Eastern collection now held in the basement of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. The move itself involved much work by the Assistant Curators and the Assistant Staff. It included the fumigation of the ethnographic material and textiles, with the aid of the Department of Ethnography, British Museum, for which we are most grateful.

### Cataloguing

Any work on the collections must include detailed checking of catalogue entries, and in many cases re-cataloguing. During the year 3734 items were re-catalogued or back accessioned. In addition, the third stage of sorting the main geographical card index into local areas of provenance, begun in 1975, was completed for Continental Europe and the British Isles. This is now in train for Africa. Duplicate card indexes were also begun for material at the Short's Store. The disentangling of the confusion existing in some of the earliest records (i.e. before 1907) continued, in the able hands of Mrs. Joan Cunning. With assistance from the Evans Fund, Miss P. Chalernpow worked through the summer sorting the Burmese and some S.E. Asian collections.

Both in this task, in the general sorting of collections, and in the move to Short's, the Curators would like to pay tribute to the indispensable contribution made by the volunteer assistants:

Robert Burn-Murdoch, Sara Carroll, Eleanor Harfield,  
Monica Heyman, Pat Hynes, Colin Kirk, Frances Oxford, Susan Parker, David Shilston and Karen Shook. Without their cheerful

and reliable aid, it would have been impossible to accomplish more than a fraction of the work done. They come from both within and outside the Faculty, and are in return gaining much useful experience. The Curators wish to thank the Crowther-Beynon Fund for a grant which gave at least some of them a contribution towards their expenses. It is a most worthwhile use of the Fund, truly fulfilling its function of "improving the collections".

#### Long Term Plan

During the year the Curators drew up a long term plan for the reorganisation of each gallery in turn, by a series of stages. This was approved by the Faculty Board and the General Board during the Easter Term, although implementation will be subject to the consent to the University at each individual stage. The scheme has been worked out in some detail, and should everything go according to plan, the main alterations should be well in hand by 1984 - which (any literary associations apart) is the centenary of the Museum's foundation. The first stage of this plan, and the indispensable break-through, was the move to Short's.

The second is the redevelopment of the Keyser Gallery, according to a scheme worked out in conjunction with the Department of Archaeology. Detailed plans and costings for the conversion of this gallery into a Museum reserve collection store and a research and teaching area for those working on these collections were drawn up in association with the Estate Management and Advisory Service, for submission to the General Board in 1977. If they are approved, it is hoped that building work can start in Michaelmas Term 1977. Thereafter, a considerable time will be needed while the museum staff sort and rearrange collections in the new reserve store. The planned Keyser study area is intended to be somewhat similar to the students' research rooms at the British Museum. In other words, it will not be a laboratory, nor a working area for the processing of departmental excavation material. The study area (or portions of it) will be allocated on a booking system for finite periods, for the purpose of research on, or teaching with, the Museum collections. This is an essential complement to the planned reduction by about 1/3 of the future exhibition area for archaeology. As material not on exhibition must be constantly and readily available, together with space to lay it out, a study area of this kind will be a valuable asset.

#### Planning new displays

The next step, requiring immediate thought, is the planning of new displays, especially in the Clarke Gallery, the first to be tackled. For this, the Curators will seek the advice and cooperation of the Department of Archaeology and of Physical Anthropology. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that close liaison between the Curators and the teaching staff is essential, if the 'one term plan is to be successfully carried through. This

operation is equally essential with the Department of Social Anthropology in our forward thinking about the future ethnographic display areas. It will also be necessary to make provision for suitable temporary teaching displays, as sections of the existing archaeological and anthropological displays have to be removed.

### General

Turning to other matters, brief mention should be made of a new development in the Museum's interests. During the Long Vacation steps were taken by the Faculties of Music, Oriental Studies, and Archaeology and Anthropology, to propose that the University should obtain the valuable and important collection of musical and other sound-producing instruments, mostly from throughout Asia, built up by Dr. L.E.R. Picken of Jesus College.

The instruments would be under the care of the Museum, and would be available for use. The General Board has indicated its willingness to act as guarantor for this purchase, provided that suitable grants are available, as is reasonably likely, from outside sources. It is intended that Dr. Picken will continue to supervise the use of the collection for teaching and research. He has also expressed his willingness to advise the Museum on the improvement of the existing ethnomusicological collections.

Routine work in the Museum, including teaching and demonstrations by the Curators, and maintenance of collections, has continued in parallel with these new activities. During the year only 11 objects needed extensive restoration, although approximately 100 were given treatment before being packed for storage. Enquiries from scholars and from the general public have been dealt with as usual. Among the requests has been one for information on the collection of Etruscan bronze mirrors for inclusion in an international corpus, and another for details of canoes illustrated in the Haddon photographic collection.

### Staff

The Curator was elected Vice-President of the South Midlands Museum Federation and lectured at London and Leicester Universities. Miss Cra'ster lectured at Colchester Museum. Mr. Stringer successfully completed further examinations for Part I of the Conservation Certificate of the Museums Association. At the end of the academic year the Museum lost, through retirement, the services of three attendants, two of whom, Messrs. Bloy and Gent, had been on the staff for over 10 years.

### Visitors

The number of visitors was 16,619 compared to 13,604 in 1974/5, an unexpected increase which contrasted with the levelling off in the previous three years. The number of visits from groups was 68 (110: 1974/5), which included several extra-mural classes, students preparing for the Museums Association Diploma, and a group of archaeology students from Aarhus University.

The following examined particular collections:

Mrs. J. Arandjelovic-Lazic - Belgrade (Ethnography)  
Dr. M. Badner - U.S.A. (Admiralty Islands carving)  
Mr. P. Bellwood - Canberra (Oceanic archaeology)  
Dr. Ben-Amos - Philadelphia (Ethnography)  
Dr. J. J. Butler - Groningen (Bronze Age collections)  
Mr. B. Hart  
Dr. C. Caplan - New York (Romano-British metalwork)  
Mrs. M. Carey - Horniman Museum (Ethnography)  
Dr. G. Carney - Brisbane (Rivers papers)  
Professor H.M. Cole - U.S.A. (Pacific N.W. Coast collections)  
B. Cranstone - British Museum (Melanesian collections)  
Miss J. Davidson - Auckland (Maori archaeology)  
Miss C. Feeney - Dublin (Irish amber)  
Dr. C. Gorman - Philadelphia (S.E. Asian collections)  
Professor R.C. Green - Auckland (Santa Cruz ornaments)  
L. Lindfors - Stockholm (Archaeology)  
Miss G. Lloyd-Morgan - Chester (Etruscan mirrors)  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Long - Baltimore (Fijian ornaments)  
D. Mackreth - Peterborough (Romano-British brooches)  
Dr. G.C. Mohapatra - Chandigarh, India (Indian archaeology)  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton - U.S.A. (Fox Indian [Owen] collection)  
Mrs. M. Nettinga-Arnheim - Holland  
Dr. G. Rogers - Auckland (Fijian collections)  
Dr. J. Roote - Chicago (von Hügel papers)  
Professor D.H. Ross - U.S.A. (American ethnography)  
Dr. J.A. Rowe - Evanston, Illinois (Ugandan ethnography)  
Miss A. Salman - Istanbul (Asian textiles)  
K.H. Shaikh - Karachi (Indian archaeology)  
T. Vuyk - Leiden (Ethnography)  
Dr. D. Waite - Hawaii (Solomon Islands carving)  
Professor O. Zerries - Munich (South American carving)

Crowthers-Beynon Fund

Grants totalling £4,500 were made to the following for research as indicated:

R. and B. Allchin	Pakistan - prehistory
K. Cameron	Brass-rubbings
D. Clarke	Wilbraham - neolithic
J. Coles	Somerset - neolithic
C.E. Daniel	Archaeology Dept. Fund
V. Ebin	Ghana - Asante
E. Graham	Belize - Maya
N. Hammond	Belize - Maya
D.F. Jones	N. Guinea - Massim
C.B.M. McBurney	Jersey - palaeolithic
A.S. Mohammed	Sudan - neolithic

Crowther-Beynon Fund cont.

Museum	Purchase/contingency funds
"	Catalogue
"	List/sort stores
E.Pader and L. Bradford	Girton - Anglo-Saxon
C. Scott	Jamaica - prehistory
A.G. Sherratt	Hungary - prehistory

Publications

H.K. Cameron "Some Early Knights - Repairs and Reports", Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society, XII, 1976: 1-10

H.K. Cameron "A Palimpsest Brass at Clothall, Herts", Transactions of the Monumental Brass Society, XII, 1976: 80-6.  
with R.J. Busby

H.K. Cameron "The Brasses of Middlesex, Part 16: Hendon, Heston", Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, 26, 1976: 319-30.

P. Gathercole "A Maori shell trumpet at Cambridge", in Problems in Economic and Social Archaeology (eds. G. de G. Sieveking, I.H. Longworth and K.E. Wilson), Duckworth, London, 1976: 187-99.

C. McBurney Early Man in the Soviet Union. The Implications of Some Recent Discoveries, (British Academy, Reckitt Archaeological Lecture 1975).

Appendix

Accessions 1975/6

- \* Dr. and Mrs. F.R. Allchin. Various articles of Sindhi clothing, Pakistan (76.501-508).
- Dr. J.A. Alexander. Roman brooch, Castle Hill, Cambridge (76.617).
- Mrs. M. Burkitt. Collection of flint and stone implements, mainly palaeolithic, from various locations in Europe, Africa and Asia, being the residue of M.C.. Burkitt's collection (76.264-500, 76.526- 616, 76.619-1085).
- Miss B.K. Barnadiston. 5 pieces of painted cotton cloth from West Africa - probably Ghana (76.509).
- \* Dr. L. Brydon. Various gourd vessels, clothing and pottery from the Volta region of Ghana (76.1567-1581).
- Executors of Dr. A.L. Bouquet. Two statuettes (recent), China (76.1583-84).
- National Museum of Bogota. Seven fragments of material, Guane Indians (76.1585).
- Mr. J.E. Barker. Veterinary horseshoe from Kensworth, Beds. (76.1586)

Col. W.J. Caffery, U.S.A.F. Roman bronze enamelled wheel brooch, pin and fitting, Lakenheath, Suffolk (76.1587-88).

Dr. and Mrs. Denton. Collection from the Mah Meri of Malaysia, including various household utensils, baskets, fishing nets etc. (76.1582).

Fitzwilliam Museum. Pair of small-long Anglo-Saxon brooches, Gilbert/Milton Roads, Cambridge (76.1590).

Executors of Prof. D. Garrod. A collection of palaeolithic flint implements excavated from Bezez Cave, Adlun, Lebanon (76.3-254).

Dr. N. Hammond. Cast of Mayan pot, Kichpauman, Belize (76.618).

Mr. J. Langford. Medieval belt tag, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge (76.1589).

Mr. A. Sherratt. Chalcolithic potsherds, Hungary (76.1-2).

Mr. E. Standen. Neolithic flint artefacts, Egypt; collected by Charles Whympers 1909-1913 (76.255-263).

Executors of Sir Eric Thompson. Various articles of clothing, Guatamala (76.510-513).

Mr. W.F. Willmann. Collection of various artefacts including potsherds, stone and flint tools, bone and shell from Niger (76.1081-1312).

Government of Pakistan, Collection of various potsherds, pottery vessels and stone implements from various protohistoric sites in Pakistan (76.1313-1566).

[ \*Obtained with the assistance of a grant from the Crowther-Beynon Fund.]

#### Deposits

Folklore Society. Collection, made by Miss M.A. Owen in 1890s, of objects from the Musquakie-Fox American Indians including many articles of clothing, jewellery and personal items (D76.136-244).

Mrs. M.D. Williamson. Collection of objects from Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan, including jugs, cups, cutlery, household utensils, weapons, religious images and musical instruments, presented to her husband while serving in the N.E. Frontier area and during visits to Lhasa, 1911-1935 (D.76.1-136)

The total of 1834 new accessions and deposits was the highest since 1950.